



Press Release

Press Release Announcement – Revised March 29, 2004 – For Immediate Use
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Pennsylvania's 2003 Trout Production Valued at \$4.68 Million

HARRISBURG --- Pennsylvania's 46 commercial trout growers sold 1.68 million pounds of trout, valued at \$4.68 million during 2003, ranking fifth nationally behind Idaho, North Carolina, Washington, and California, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS). This was up from the 1.61 million pounds valued at \$4.87 million sold in 2002. Pennsylvania ranks second in the nation for the value of trout distributed for conservation and recreational purposes. With an estimated value of \$6.9 million, Pennsylvania accounts for 11.5 percent of the nation's distributed trout. This includes trout released by state hatcheries, cooperative nurseries, and private fishing clubs. Distributed fish were released by 16 operations in Pennsylvania, but this count excludes cooperative nurseries under contract to state hatcheries. PASS, a joint operation of the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, compiles data on Pennsylvania food and fiber production as part of a nationwide effort.

Sales of trout 12 inches or longer by the state's growers totaled 1.46 million pounds, or 87 percent of the total production sold during the period. This was up 100,000 lbs. or 7 percent from a year ago. Averaging \$2.60 per pound, compared to \$2.85 last year and \$1.09 nationally, the 12 inch and larger trout were valued at \$3.80 million. Fee fishing and recreational sales accounted for 62 percent of the production, and sales to other producers accounted for another 13 percent.

Sales of trout 6 to 12 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 500,000 fish, or 211,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 25,000 lbs. or 11 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$3.80 a pound, compared to \$3.70 last year and \$2.49 nationally, sales of 6 to 12 inch trout were valued at \$802,000, with 74 percent of the volume sold to fee fishing and recreational establishments.

Sales of trout 1 to 6 inches long by Pennsylvania growers totaled 270,000 fish, or 8,000 pounds live weight during the period. This was down 9,000 lbs. or 53 percent from the same period a year ago. At an average of \$295.00 per thousand fish, compared to \$275.00 last year and \$168.00 nationally, sales of 1 to 6 inch trout were valued at \$80 thousand.

Trout distributed for restoration or conservation purposes, primarily by the state fish commission and its cooperative nurseries, but also by private fishing clubs, included 5.15 million fish 6-12" long in 2003, compared to 5,775 million fish a year ago.

Total losses of all Pennsylvania trout intended for sale were 313,000 fish during 2003, with 69 percent being lost to predators, 11 percent to disease, and another 13 percent to other various causes.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service surveyed commercial trout growers in Pennsylvania and 19 other states: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Information was collected by mail, telephone and personal interview.

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For the **20 selected states**, the total value of all sales, both fish and eggs, received by trout growers during 2003 totaled \$66.4 million, a decrease of 5 percent from 2002. Nationally, sales of fish totaled \$62.3 million for 2003, while egg sales totaled \$4.18 million. The state of Idaho accounted for 47 percent of the total value of fish sold.

The number of trout 12 inches and longer sold during 2003 totaled 45.9 million fish, down 8 percent from the previous year. The value of sales of trout 12 inches and longer for the 2003 marketing year was 55.4 million dollars, down 5 percent from 2002. Based on dollar value, 68 percent were sold to processors and 20 percent were sold to fee and recreational fishing establishments.

The number of 6-12 inch trout sold during 2003 totaled 6.33 million fish, a decrease of 14 percent from 2002. The average value per pound was \$2.49 during 2003, down 4 cents from the 2002 price. The total value of sales was 5.66 million dollars during 2003, up 2 percent from the previous year. The major sales outlet for 6-12 inch trout was to fee and recreational establishments with 54 percent of the total sales, followed by government with 14 percent, and sales to other producers at 12 percent.

The number of 1-6 inch trout sold during 2003 totaled 7.34 million, a 20 percent decrease from the previous year. The average value per 1,000 fish was \$168.00 during 2003, a \$7.00 increase from 2002. The total value of sales was 1.23 million dollars, down 16 percent from last year's total.

Trout egg sales in 2003 totaled 264 million eggs, down 12 percent from the 298 million eggs sold during the previous year. The average value per 1,000 eggs during 2003 was \$15.80, up 90 cents from 2002. The total value of trout egg sales during 2003 was 4.18 million dollars, down 6 percent from the 4.45 million dollars in egg sales during the previous year.

Trout distributed for restoration, conservation, and recreation purposes, primarily by State and Federal hatcheries, included 11.4 million 12 inch or longer fish, 43.7 million 6-12 inch fish, and 63.6 million fingerlings. The estimated value of fish and eggs distributed totaled 61.2 million dollars, up 1 percent from 2002.

Total losses of all trout intended for sale were 29.2 million fish during 2003, with 81.7 percent being lost to disease and 13.1 percent lost to predators. Losses to trout raised for distribution were primarily due to disease (71 percent) and predators (18 percent).